

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /072 W
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TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE
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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 1525

PASS: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOM OFFENBURGER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP

1. FOLLOWING IS MAY 13 MEDIA REACTION ON AMBASSADOR
YOUNG'S AFRICAN TRIP. END SUMMARY.

2. HOWARD K. SMITH COMMENTARY ON ABC EVENING NEWS STATES THAT
THE OVERWHELMING ELECTORAL SUCCESS OF "PIK" BOTH IN A HIGHLY
CONSERVATIVE DISTRICT PROVES THAT CHANGE "IS IN PROGRESS"
IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SMITH ADVISES "OUR TALKATIVE U.N. AMBASSA-
DOR, ANDREW YOUNG" TO TAKE "A CUE FROM THAT RESULT" AND TO
"END HIS PROVOCATIVE ATTACKS ON THE WHITE GOVERNMENT AND USE
HIS PRESTIGE INSTEAD TO APPLY FRIENDLY BUT FIRM PRESSURE" TO
HASTEN THE CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA. SMITH CONTRASTS DIFFERENT
SITUATIONS IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, STATING
RHODESIAN WHITES "ARE RECENT ARRIVALS, RELATIVELY IN AFRICA,"
WHO TOOK LAND AWAY FROM THE BLACKS AND WHO "COULD GO BACK
TO ENGLAND IF THEY LOSE A WAR." SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES, ON THE
OTHER HAND, SMITH STATES, HAVE BEEN IN AFRICA "AS LONG AS WE
HAVE BEEN HERE IN NORTH AMERICA, "AND HAVE LOST THEIR TIES TO
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EUROPE. SMITH CAUTIONS: "MR. YOUNG SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IF RACIAL
WAR COMES TO SOUTH AFRICA IT WOULD BE VASTLY WORSE THAN A WAR IN
RHODESIA" BECAUSE THE SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES WILL FIGHT "WITH
THE BITTERNESS ONLY THOSE CONVINCED THAT THEY ARE DEFENDING THEIR
ONLY HOMELAND CAN SUMMON." IT WOULD BE A LONG, BRUTAL WAR WHICH
ONLY A "MASSIVE INTERVENTION OF RUSSIAN-BACKED WHITES (SIC)
COULD WIN. AND THAT, OF COURSE, WOULD TURN SOUTH AFRICA INTO A

SOVIET BASE," HE WARNS. SMITH CONCLUDES WE BETTER DO ALL WE CAN "TO ENCOURAGE"THE SIGNS OF "CONCILIATION... LIKE YESTERDAY'S ELECTION," FOR THE "ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TERRIBLE."

3. YOUNG'S CRITICISM OF SOVIETS FOR LACK OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT AID IS THEME OF AP (SCHMEMANN) DISPATCH WHICH QUOTES YOUNG AS SAYING: 'DON'T KNOW A SINGLE PLACE IN AFRICA WHERE THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE A SINGLE CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT.' YOUNG, ACCORDING TO AP, TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE U.S. SHOULD LAUNCH A LARGE-SCALE AID PROGRAM AS 'IT DID IN EUROPE AT THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.' WRITING ON HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY/YOUNG MEETING, SCHMEMANN REPORTS IVORIAN LEADER OF HAVING SAID THE "WEST SHOULD TAKE THE LEADERSHIP" IN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT AND THAT TWO WORST MISTAKES U.S. MADE IN AFRICA WERE "NOT TAKING THE LEAD IN ENDING PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM- THUS PERMITTING PRO-MARXIST REGIMES TO TAKE POWER - AND LETTING THE SOVIETS BUILD THE ASWAN DAM IN EGYPT." AP STORY, THEN, QUOTES YOUNG AS SAYING: 'WE CAN'T LET IT LOOK LIKE WE'RE NEGLECTING THE MODERATE STATES THAT HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY AND PURSUE THE RADICAL STATES.'" STATING THAT AMERICAN AMBASSADORS DISCUSSED WAYS TO PEACEFULLY MOVE SOUTH AFRICA TOWARD MAJORITY RULE, SCHMEMANN WRITES THAT, ACCORDING TO YOUNG, U.S. POLICY ON SOUTH AFRICA WAS NOT TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT BUT TO GET SOUTH AFRICA 'TO DO THINGS THAT ARE IN THEIR OWN LONG-RANGE INTEREST.'

4. ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, ENDORSING THE "NEW OPENNESS" WITH REGARD TO THE FORMULATION OF FOREIGN POLICY, EDITORIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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TORIALY APPLAUDS YOUNG'S MISSION TO AFRICA AND PARTICULARLY YOUNG'S APPROACH TO SOLICIT THE ADVICE OF THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATS, THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES INVOLVED, IN HELPING SHAPE AN AFRICAN POLICY. THE CONSTITUTION CONCLUDES THAT "POLICIES TOWARD AFRICA HAVE BEEN PRACTICALLY NON-EXISTENT AND ITS ENCOURAGING THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION CARES ENOUGH TO TRY FORMING SOME."

5. NYTIMES CARRIES UPI DISPATCH FROM ABIDJAN SAYING THAT YOUNG TOLD REPORTERS AT A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HE IS UNCONCERNED ABOUT ETHIOPIA BEING IN THE SOVIET CAMP AND THAT THE SWITCH HAS GIVEN THE KREMLIN 'MORE TROUBLE THAN IT CAN HANDLE.'

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PASS: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOM OFFENBURGER

6. ASKED BY AN UNNAMED STUDENT, WHO SAID SHE WAS A MEMBER OF YOUNG'S FAMILY, DURING A VISITING LECTURE AT UCLA IF FORMER PRESIDENT FORD THOUGHT THAT YOUNG WAS A "WINDBAG", HE IS REPORTED, BY NYTIMES, TO HAVE REPLIED, 'NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.' MR. FORD PRAISED YOUNG AS A 'THOUGHTFUL, DECENT, ABLE PERSON.' FURTHER QUOTES FORD AS SAYING: 'I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT ANDY HAS MADE SOME STATEMENTS THAT YOU COULD MAKE AS A CONGRESSMAN, BUT I'M NOT SURE THAT ANDY OUGHT TO MAKE THEM AS THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS.'

7. CITING THE BREAK WITH PAST FOR/KISSINGER POLICIES, PRIMARY FOCUS OF RANDAL (WPOST) STORY IS THAT ACCORDING TO UNNAMED AMERICAN DIPLOMATS, THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED COM CONFERENCE DREW UP A "LIST OF CONCRETE STEPS DESIGNED TO SIGNAL" U.S. DETERMINATION TO "BRING ABOUT POLICY CHANGES" IN SOUTH AFRICA. RANDAL WRITES MEASURES CONSIDERED INCLUDED "WITHDRAWAL OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY ATTACHE, TIGHTENING UP VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICANS, SEVERING LINKS BETWEEN AMERICAN AND SOUTH
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AFRICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND CURTAILING EXPORT-IMPORT BANK CREDITS TO THE PRETORIA GOVERNMENT." ANY DECISION, ACCORDING TO RANDAL, TO "IMPLEMENT THE MEASURES AND THE MIX AND TIMING INVOLVED - WOULD

DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME" OF THE MONDALE/VORSTER MEETING.
REST OF STORY HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF YOUNG'S NEWS
CONFERENCE: (A) THERE WILL ALWAYS BE TENSION BETWEEN YOUNG
AND SAG 'AS LONG AS THE LEVEL OF INJUSTICE IS A
HIGH AS IT IS;' (B) MUCH OF THE CONTROVERSY SURROUND-
ING YOUNG IS DUE TO THE AMERICAN PRESS AND THAT THE
PRESS, STILL INFLUENCED BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION, 'DOES
NOT UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN FOREIGN
POLICY TAKING PLACE UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY
OF STATE VANCE.'

8. IN LENGHTY, 10-MINUTE, VERY HEATED, OFTEN SHOUTING
DEBATE ON ABC GOOD MORNING AMERICA, SYNDICATED COLUM-
NIST WILLIAM RUSHER TOOK PRO STANCE, WHILE ROBERT SHEER
(LA TIMES) ADVOCATED OPPOSITE VIEW ON WHETHER YOUNG IS HURT-
ING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. RUSHER, REPEATING THE
FAMILIAR CHARGES AGAINST YOUNG FOR HIS CONTROVERSIAL
STATEMENTS ON BRITAIN, ANGOLA, SOUTH AFRICA,ETC.,
MADE THESE POINTS: (A) MOST OF YOUNG'S FREE-WHEELING
REMARKS HAVE BE SUBSEQUENTLY EXPLAINED AWAY; (B) YOUNG
IDEAL AMBASSADOR TO THE UN BECAUSE "WHAT
BETTER ENVOY TO A CIRCUS THAN A CLOWN;" (C) THIRD
WORLD BLAC, WHICH HAS "CONTEMPT FOR AND HOSTILITY TOWARD"
THE U.S. LIKES YOUNG BECAUSE "HE ENERGIZES THAT, HE
JUST CREATES MORE OF IT;" (D) IT IS NOT BUSINESS OF US
AMBASSADOR TO GO AROUND CONDEMNING NATIONS; (E) WHILE
YOUNG NOT HELPING OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS, FORTUNATELY
U.S. REPUTATION WILL SURVIVE HIM. SHEER COUNTERED: (A)
YOUNG IS STRONG, MORAL PERSON WHO SPEAKS HIS MIND AND NOT
WILLING TO BE A "YES MAN;" (B) YOUNG'S COMMENTS CONSISTENT
WITH THE FOREIGN POLICY CARTER ANNOUNCED DURING
THE CAMPAIGN; (C) SOUTH AFRICA VISIT FLAP WAS PHONEY
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ISSUE BY FM BOTHA WHO WAS RUNNING FOR OFFICE AND IT WAS
USED TO DENIGRATE YOUNG; (D) YOUNG IS FIRST MAJOR AMERI-
CAN POLITICIAN TO ENJOY RESPECT OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD
AND THIS IS OF BENEFIT TO U.S.; (E) SHOWING CONTEMPT
FOR THE PROTOCOL OF THE RACIST GOVERNMENT IN
SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT A BAD THING TO DO; (F) RUSHER WAS
PICKING ON YOUNG BECAUSE HE WAS ATTACKING WHITE
GOVERNMENTS IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, TWO REGIMES
SUPPORTED BY RUSHER OVER THE YEARS.
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